

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ADDIS 01173 131425Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00
NSCE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
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/101 W

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O P 131350Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SDCSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7636
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 1173

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, PORG, UN, ET, SO
SUBJECT: EPMG POSITION ON SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING, CEASEFIRE,
AND INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS

REF: ADDIS ABABA 1163

SUMMARY: CONVERSATION WITH MOFA PERMSEC DAWIT WOLDE-GHIORGIS
REVEALED THAT ETHIOPIA CONTINUES TO OPPOSE UNSEC MEETING AS
UNNECESSARY, NOW THAT WAR LIKELY TO END WITHIN MATTER OF DAYS.
DAWIT SAID ETHIOPIA WOULD RESENT PROPOSALS TO STATION FOREIGN
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OBSERVERS IN OGADEN, WHICH HE SAW AS QUESTIONING ETHIOPIAN IN-
TENTIONS TOWARDS ITS OWN POPULATION. BY SAME TOKEN, THERE WAS
NO NEED TO MONITOR CEASEFIRE, SINCE ETHIOPIAN FORCES WILL SOON
HAVE PUSHED ALL SOMALI FORCES BACK TO OWN SIDE OF BRODER, AT WHICH
POINT SHOOTING WOULD NATURALLY STOP. EPMG SEEMED CLEARLY AWARE
OF, AND NOT PLEASED ABOUT, EFFORTS IN NEW YORK TO CONVENE SC
EMERGENCY SESSION. SUMMANY.

1. MOFA PERMSEC DAWIT WOLDE-GHIORGIS TOLD ME MARCH 13 THAT EPMG VIEWS PROPOSALS TO STATION INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS IN OGADEN OSTENSIBLY TO FACILITATE TRANSITION FROM WAR TO PEACE AS INAPPROPRIATE INTERVENTION INTO INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF ETHIOPIA. (THIS POINT WAS ALSO SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED IN MARCH 11 MOFA COMMUNIQUE, BUT NOT CAUGHT IN RADIO VERSION, REPORTED IN ADDIS ABABA 1156.) GIVEN PAST HISTORY OF ETHIOPIAN INVESTMENT IN PEOPLE AND RESOURCES OF OGADEN, US MORE THAN ANY OTHER COUNTRY SHOULD BE AWARE THAT ETHIOPIA HAS FAR GREATER STAKE IN WELFARE OF OGADENIS THAN FOREIGN OBSERVERS COULD EVER HAVE. AS EXAMPLE, HE CITED GOBE RESETTLEMENT PROJECT, IN WHICH US PARTICIPATED.

2. DAWIT POINTED OUT THAT MASSIVE RECONSTRUCTION AND REHABILITATION EFFORT IN OGADEN WILL BE URGENT PRIORITY FOR EPMG AS SOON AS WAR IS OVER, FOR WHICH ETHIOPIA WILL BE LOOKING TO INTERNATIONAL DONORS. SINCE US WOULD PROBABLY WANT TO PARTICIPATE AND SEND EXPERTS AND DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL TO SURVEY NEEDS, US WOULD AT THAT TIME HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO TRAVEL TO OGADEN AND WOULD BE ABLE TO SEE HOW LOCAL POULATION IS BEING TREATED. "YOU WILL HAVE A CHANCE TO SEE YOURSELF," HE SAID, NODDING TO ME AND POLCOUNS.

3. DAWIT SUMMARIZED POSITION BY SAYING THAT TO STATION OBSERVERS IN OGADEN WOULD APPEAR TO QUESTION INTENTIONS OF REVOLUTION AND EPMG'S SINCERE CONCERN FOR OGADENI PEOPLE AND WOULD THEREFORE CONFIDENTIAL

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BE RESENTED. TO SUGGESTIONS THAT PROPOSAL WAS IN FIRST INSTANCE TO STATION OBSERVERS ON BOTH SIDES OF FRONTIER IN ORDER TO SUPERVISE CEASEFIRE, DAWIT'S ATTITUDE WAS THAT ETHIOPIAN FORCES WERE NOW MOVING SO RAPIDLY TO DEFEAT AND EXPEL SOMALI ARMY THAT THERE WOULD BE NO SOMALIS LEFT WITHIN MATTER OF DAYS. DESPITE TREMENDOUS PRESSURES FROM ITS OWN FORCES TO PUNISH SOMALIS, EPMG HAS GIVEN STRICT ORDERS NOT TO CROSS FRONTIER AT ANY POINT. THERE WILL BE NO VIOLATIONS OF THIS ORDER, DAWIT ASSURED. THUS, CEASEFIRE WILL BE AN ESTABLISHED FACT, AND THERE WILL BE NO NEED FOR OTHER COUNTRIES EITHER TO CALL FOR CEASEFIRE OR TO MONITOR FACT THAT IT EXISTS.

4. DAWIT AND MOFA AMERICAN AFFAIRS DIRECTOR BERHANE DERESSA ASKED ABOUT REPORTS MOFA HAD RECEIVED OF LENGTHY TELEPHONE CONVERSATION BETWEEN SECRETARY VANCE AND SYG WALDHEIM. THEY SAID THAT IF CONVENING SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING WERE BEING DISCUSSED, EPMG WISHED EARLIEST POSSIBLE OPPORTUNITY TO RESTIER ITS POINTS OF VIEW. DAWIT ADDED THAT WITH WAR NEARLY OVER AND OAU MACHINERY AVAILABLE TO DEAL WITH OUTSTANDING PROBLEMS, EPMG SAW NO NEED AT ALL FOR SC MEETING NOW. I DID NOT INFORM DAWIT OF STATE OF PLAY IN NEW YORK, AS REPORTED STATE 63447. MATHERON

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Message Attributes

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